



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **North Dakota Department of Health Identifies Additional Case in Hepatitis C Outbreak *Case May Provide New Clues in Investigation***

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has identified an additional case in the hepatitis C outbreak investigation. The total number of individuals infected in this outbreak now stands at 46.

Up until identification of this case, the outbreak has been confined to current or former residents of ManorCare. The newly identified case has not been a resident of and has no direct connection to ManorCare. More investigation is needed to determine if this case shares other risk factors with prior cases. As with the prior cases, this additional case does not represent a public health risk to the general population.

“Because this case presents a slightly different history than the prior cases, it may provide additional clues about where this infection originated and how it has been passed between individuals,” according to Tracy Miller, State Epidemiologist. “We are undertaking an extensive investigation into the medical history of this patient and circumstances around this case in the hope of furthering our understanding of this outbreak,” Miller added.

The NDDoH is mobilizing staff to identify those who may be at risk of hepatitis C infection based on information from this additional case. The department will contact individuals who have risk factors and ask them to be tested for hepatitis C, and plans to begin testing in June. The department urges those who are contacted to obtain a blood test in order to protect their health and to further the course of the investigation. Both positive and negative blood tests can provide valuable information, and if a person tests positive, they should immediately consult with their health care provider regarding treatment. Those who are not contacted by the NDDoH do not need to be tested as a part of this outbreak investigation.

For more information, contact Tracy Miller, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2378.

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